

On The Status of a Little Known Satyrid Butterfly from Greece

By J. BROWN, F.R.E.S.*

Pseudochazara cingovskii Gross has been reported rather infrequently from Southern Yugoslavia and Northern Greece (Gross, 1973; Koutsaftikis, 1974; Brown, 1976). Nevertheless, further collecting trips to the peaks of the extensive massif of Mt. Smolikas, not far from the Albanian frontier of Greece, suggest that this butterfly occurs in many widely scattered colonies in this area. In fact, comparison of the more extensive series of Greek *P. cingovskii* which is now available with the description of the nominate form from Yugoslavia (Gross, 1973) suggests that the Greek insect represents an as yet undescribed taxon.

Pseudochazara cingovskii tisiphone ssp. nov.

Male *Upperside* similar to that of *Hipparchia semele cadmus* Fruhstorfer but forewing with prominent white ocelli in S 3, 4 and two white-pupilled ocelli in S 2, 5. Hindwing with small white-pupilled ocelli in S 2, 3 and often 4. Dark marginal borders 2-3 mm. wide on all wings. Fringes grey, tipped white. Ground colour dark brown and sex brand indistinct. Well defined and usually fulvous, although sometimes dirty yellowish, postdiscal band variably dusted brown on hindwing and broken along veins by ground colour especially along v4 of forewing. Forewing length 25-29 mm. *Underside* ground colour dusky orange-brown or dirty yellow. Well marked discal line on forewing. Base of forewing uniform grey. Cell with one cell bar, which is continued vaguely to inner margin of wing. Hindwing irrorate with fine darker markings, especially marginally. Traces of a pale postdiscal band occur after the vestigial grey discal and postdiscal lines. Often a white submarginal ocellus in S 3.

Female. Similar but larger, forewing lengths 28-29 mm: postdiscal markings more pronounced.

Holotype ♂ : Mt. Smolikas, Greece, 1200 m., 7.vii.1975. J. Brown leg. et coll.

Allotype ♀ : data as for holotype but 27.vii.1978.

Paratypes: 6 ♂, 2♀, data as for holotype but 7.vii.1975-27.vii.1978.

The holotype has already been illustrated (Brown, 1976: figs 10 & 11; male genitalia figs 4 & 5).

P. c. tisiphone flies over rough stoney places at altitudes of about 1200 m. For the present, it is known only from Mt. Smolikas. Interestingly, the male of this insect seems to have two distinct forms, the one with fulvous and well marked postdiscal bands, and the other and rarer with yellowish postdiscal bands more obscured by a suffusion of the dark ground colour. Both of these forms can be caught flying together, and this phenomenon may prove to be an example of polymorphism unusual for the genus *Pseudochazara* de Lesse.

* 7 Chiltern Road, Sutton, Surrey.

P. c. tisiphone can be distinguished from *P. c. cingovskii* by its darker ground colour and usually deeper fulvous bands on the upperside, and by the densely irrorated underside of its hindwing, which has a strongly reduced discal line and postdiscal band. *P. c. cingovskii* was initially described as a subspecies of *Satyrus sintenisi* Staudinger by Gross, using specimens from a colony near Prilep in Southern Yugoslavia. This insect falls into group 2a of the division of the genus *Pseudochazara* according to androconial pattern, and within this group it has now been accorded specific status (Brown, 1976). In the light of our present knowledge, then, a distance of only about 80 miles separates the Yugoslavian population of *cingovskii* from that on Mt. Smolikas. Nevertheless, it is interesting to speculate on the relationship of *P. c. cingovskii* to its rather different Southern cousin. Despite the geographical proximity of the Yugoslavian and Greek mountain colonies, the Pindos range, of which Mt. Smolikas is a Northern peak, is significantly isolated from the higher mountains of Yugoslavian Macedonia to the North-East by the low plain extending from the Southern tip of Lake Ohrid on the Yugoslavian-Albanian frontier towards Kalambaka some one hundred miles further South in Greece. This separation seems to be reflected in a considerable endemic faunistic element for the area, a point which has already been touched upon (Brown & Coutsis, 1978). For example, *P. anymone* Brown seems confined to the Northern Pindos of Greece, whereas *P. geyeri* Herrich-Schäffer has never been recorded from Greece but is only to be found in the higher mountains around Lake Ohrid. As a result it is perhaps not unprecedented that *P. c. tisiphone* should be so different from *P. c. cingovskii* despite the fact that the two populations appear so closely situated. Indeed, it is difficult to say how far the differences between these two allopatric taxa go towards establishing two separate but allied species, and the clarification of this last point must await material of Yugoslavian *cingovskii* being made more freely available for study than in the past.

References

- Brown, J., 1976. A Review of The Genus *Pseudochazara* de Lesse 1951 in Greece. *Entomologist's Gaz.*, 27: 85-90.
- Brown, J. & Coutsis, J. G., 1978. Two Newly Discovered Lycaenid Butterflies from Greece, with Notes on Allied Species. *Entomologist's Gaz.*, 29: 201-213.
- Gross, F. J., 1973. *Satyrus sintenisi* auch in Europa nebst Beschreibung einer neuer Unterart. *Ent. Z. Frankf. a. M.*, 83: 211-214
- Koutsaftikis, A., 1974. Recent Butterfly Records from Greece. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, 86: 15-17.

